



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 6430

LCO No. 3248



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL COUNCIL TO SUPPORT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section: (1) "Early college high school" means a school in which low-
3 income youth, first-generation college goers, English language
4 learners, students of color and other persons who are
5 underrepresented in higher education may simultaneously earn,
6 tuition free, a high school diploma and an associate degree or up to
7 two years of credit toward a bachelor degree; and (2) "middle college
8 program" means a collaboration between a school district's high
9 schools and a regional-community technical college pursuant to which
10 a student who desires a more independent learning environment may
11 (A) take a combination of core high school courses and courses for
12 which college or university-level credit may be given, and (B) attribute
13 any such credits earned toward a program of higher learning at an
14 institution of high education in which such student enrolls upon
15 graduation from the middle college program.

16 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness, in consultation with
17 Capital Workforce Partners, a regional workforce development board
18 established pursuant to section 31-3k of the general statutes, shall
19 establish a regional council of educators, workforce development
20 boards and agencies, business leaders and civic officials to encourage
21 collaboration among leaders in early childhood education, primary
22 and secondary education, higher education and workforce training, to
23 develop an effective education and career pathway that maximizes the
24 number of skilled persons in this state with a postsecondary degree or
25 other credentials necessary for employment. The purpose of such
26 regional council shall be the alignment of education with workforce
27 needs.

28 (c) Not later than January 1, 2015, the regional council established
29 under subsection (b) of this section shall develop a strategic plan for
30 better meeting the needs of current and future employers by aligning
31 such needs with technical high school and higher education programs,
32 including, but not limited to, career pathway programs offered by the
33 regional community-technical colleges. In developing the strategic
34 plan, the regional council shall consider the following: (1) Career
35 academies and growth clusters; (2) high school skill attainment and
36 strategies for measuring attainment; (3) alternative methods for
37 measuring student growth and competency; (4) small learning centers
38 and academies for students who are considered hard to serve; (5)
39 career development and planning in high schools; (6) alternative
40 pathways to higher education; (7) improvements to adult education
41 and literacy programming; (8) early college high schools; (9) licensure
42 and accreditation of community and technical colleges; and (10) how
43 best to assist municipalities with high unemployment rates in early
44 targeting of students in grades six through twelve who may benefit
45 from a middle college program or from alignment with the technical
46 high school system. Not later than January 1, 2014, the regional council
47 shall report on the development of the strategic plan, in accordance
48 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing

49 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
50 relating to higher education and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To support Connecticut's jobs agenda and focus on state investments and alignment to better meet the state's workforce development outcomes and to further develop a regional action plan to align comprehensive early childhood, primary and secondary school programs with programs of higher education and workforce needs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]